

Table 6
A Hypothetical Growth Scenario for California Tire Recycling

Recycling Market Segment	Hypothetical Growth Scenario¹¹ (Annual Increase Over and Above Current Levels)	Feasibility Assessment
Reuse	Stable, No Growth	Likely scenario, with possibility of decline due to growing quantity of lower-tier imported tires.
Paving	6M+ PTEs/Year	Increase of 150 percent of current level. Feasible if new Caltrans policies are implemented consistently over time.
Turf Infill	1M PTEs/Year	Increase of 50 percent of current level. Very challenging but potentially doable. Requires that new studies reverse negative media attention, and that newly produced crumb rubber continues to be the primary infill of choice. Large-scale reuse of crumb rubber infill in replacement fields, while environmentally beneficial, would reduce growth potential for new crumb rubber.
Ground Rubber/ Nuggets	1.2M PTEs/Year	Increase of 100 percent of current level. Very challenging but potentially feasible. Requires that nuggets sustain and expand market share, potentially at the expense of landscape products made from buffings. If buffings shortage intensifies, it could support this scenario.
Molded/Extruded	4M PTEs/Year	Nearly a 7-fold increase over current level. Extremely challenging and most likely not possible. This volume would require several large-scale manufacturers to establish production of new or feedstock conversion products with sustained high-volume use of crumb rubber raw materials. Use of calcium carbonate from recycled carpets could reduce the potential for growth in this segment.
Civil Engineering	4.2M PTEs/Year	Increase of 350 percent of current level, and a 5-fold increase over the average annual use over the past 5 years. Very challenging to achieve. Would require sustained use in a variety of small- and large-scale projects in a greater diversity of market segments.
Total	16.4M+ PTEs/Year	

¹¹ These hypothetical scenarios are not projections. They are presented solely for the purpose of illustrating how challenging it will be to achieve a 75 percent tire recycling rate in California.